

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 998

By Patton

A RESOLUTION to recognize the medical affliction of reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome (RSDS) and its impact upon the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, from time to time, this Legislative Body must recognize the impact made by certain medical conditions upon the citizens of this State and encourage the proper treatment of such medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome (RSDS) is one such condition, and demands proper, informed diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, RSDS, also known as complex regional pain syndrome, is a debilitating and progressively chronic condition characterized by severe burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating, tissue swelling, and extreme sensitivity to touch; and

WHEREAS, while the causes of RSDS are unknown, the syndrome is thought to be the result of damaged nerves of the sympathetic nervous system; it generally occurs at the site of a minor or major trauma, but may also occur without an apparent injury to the afflicted person; and

WHEREAS, the disorder is unique in that it simultaneously affects the nerves, skin, muscles, blood vessels, and bones, and if left untreated, can result in permanent deformity and chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, RSDS is often misdiagnosed due to lack of understanding or awareness; the prognosis for those suffering from RSDS is generally much better when the condition is identified and treated as early as possible, ideally within three months of identifying the first symptoms; and

WHEREAS, since a delay in diagnosis or treatment of this syndrome can result in severe physical and psychological problems, and early recognition and prompt treatment of RSDS

provide the greatest opportunity for recovery, it is in the best interest of the public for both private individuals and medical professionals to receive education with regards to this debilitating condition and to promote research to accurately identify, diagnose, and treat RSDS; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the members of this General Assembly recognize the gravity of reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome and its impact upon the lives of those it afflicts, offer our support for all programs dedicated to researching, identifying, diagnosing, or treating RSDS, and urge all Tennesseans to increase their awareness and knowledge of reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome, its symptoms, and its debilitating effects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Body requests the Tennessee Medical Association inform its membership of this disorder and incorporate, when possible, information about RSDS into its continuing education curriculum and programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.